

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3 and 5-18 and add claims 19-43 as follows:

1. (Original) A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at a handset of the cordless telephone, the handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone;

A) the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between the handset and the base unit, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the base unit by terminating the hold status.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the first party accepts the incoming call by terminating the hold status.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at ~~the~~ a base unit of the cordless telephone, ~~the~~ a handset being at a location separate from ~~a~~ the base unit of the cordless telephone;

the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between the base unit and the handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status.

A | 4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, wherein the first party accepts the incoming call by terminating the hold status.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone with multiple handsets comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at ~~the~~ a first handset of the cordless telephone, ~~the~~ a second handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone and said first handset;

the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status.

6. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station; and

at least one cordless telephone handset for communicating with said base station, each including second control circuitry for controlling operations at said handset;

said first and second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and handset to place an active call at at least one of said base station and handset on hold during said intercom communication.

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7. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 6, wherein said first control circuitry causes ~~an~~ said active call to be placed on hold when ~~an~~ said intercom communication is initiated during ~~an~~ said active call and initiates ~~an~~ said intercom communication between said base ~~unit~~ station and said handset.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 7, wherein said first control circuitry causes ~~an~~ said active call to be re-engaged when said base ~~unit~~ station or said handset terminates said intercom communications.

9. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station; and

at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second handsets respectively;

said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at said base station or one of said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication.

A) 10. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 9, wherein said first control circuitry causes ~~an~~ said active call to be placed on hold when ~~an~~ said intercom communication is initiated during ~~an~~ said active call and initiates ~~an~~ said intercom communication between said base unit station and said at least a said first and second handsets.

11. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 10, wherein said first control circuitry causes ~~an~~ said active call to be re-engaged when said base unit station or one of said at least a first and second handsets terminates said intercom communication.

12. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station and separate intercom buttons for each of a plurality of cordless telephone handsets handset; said plurality of cordless telephone handsets comprising at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second

handsets respectively and a separate intercom button for said base station and each other of said handsets;

 said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication.

A | 13. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 12, wherein said first control circuitry causes ~~an~~ said active call to be placed on hold when ~~an~~ said intercom communication is initiated during ~~an~~ said active call and initiates ~~an~~ said intercom communication between said base unit station and said at least a first and second handsets.

14. (Currently Amended) The system as in claim 13, wherein said first control circuitry causes ~~an~~ said active call to be re-engaged when said base unit station or one of said at least a first and second handsets terminates said intercom communications.

15. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone base station comprising:

 a controller;

 a transceiver; and

 an intercom initiator;

 wherein when an intercom initiation signal is received from a handset during an active call, said active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is initiated;

wherein when said intercom initiator is activated during ~~an~~ said active call, said active call is placed on hold and ~~an~~ said intercom communication is initiated with said handset.

16. (Currently Amended) A base station as in claim 15, wherein said controller causes ~~an~~ said active call to be re-engaged and causes said intercom communication to end when said intercom initiator is activated during ~~an~~ said active call or ~~an~~ said intercom initiation signal is received from said handset during ~~an~~ said active call.

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17. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone handset comprising:

a controller;

a speaker/microphone;

a transceiver; and

an intercom initiator;

wherein when said intercom initiator is activated during an active call, said active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is initiated with at least a base station;

wherein when an intercom initiation signal is received during ~~an~~ said active call, said active call is placed on hold and ~~an~~ said intercom communication is initiated.

18. (Currently Amended) A cordless telephone handset as in claim 17, wherein said controller causes ~~an~~ said active call to be re-engaged and said intercom communication to end when said intercom initiator is activated during ~~an~~ said intercom communication or ~~an~~ said intercom initiation signal is received during ~~an~~ said active call.

19. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of initiating an intercom connection between the handset and the base unit further comprises activating an intercom initiator on said handset.

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20. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of alerting a second party further comprises sending an intercom connection request signal from said handset to said base unit.

21. (New) A method as in claim 1, further comprising terminating said step of initiating an intercom connection between the handset and the base unit by sending an end intercom signal from said handset to said base unit.

22. (New) A method as in claim 21, wherein said step of sending an end intercom signal from said handset further comprises activating an intercom control at said handset.

23. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of the second party accepting the incoming call at the base unit by terminating the hold status further comprises activating a telephone line control on said base unit.

24. (New) A method as in claim 3, wherein said step of initiating an intercom communication between the base unit and the handset comprises sending an intercom communication request signal from said base unit to at least said handset.

A | 25. (New) A method as in claim 3, wherein said step of alerting a second party further comprises sending an intercom communication request signal from said base unit to at least said handset.

26. (New) A method as in claim 3, further comprising terminating said step of initiating an intercom connection between the base unit and the handset by activating an intercom initiator at said base unit.

27. (New) A method as in claim 26, wherein said intercom initiator at said base unit comprises an intercom control switch.

28. (New) A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of alerting a second party further comprises sending an intercom connection request signal from said first handset to at least said second handset.

29. (New) A method as in claim 5, further comprising terminating said step of initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset by activating an intercom control on said first handset.

30. (New) A cordless telephone handset comprising:

a controller;

a speaker/microphone;

a transceiver; and

an intercom control portion, said intercom control portion being actuatable during an active call connection with said handset to send a signal to said controller, said controller in response to said signal sending a first intercom control signal through said transceiver to a cordless telephone base station;

wherein, said active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is requested between said handset and said base station when said first intercom control signal is sent by said handset during said active call.

31. (New) A cordless telephone handset as in claim 30, wherein said first control signal is an intercom initiation signal.

32. (New) A cordless handset as in claim 30, wherein an intercom communication connection is established when said handset receives a second intercom control signal from said base station.

33. (New) A cordless handset as in claim 32, wherein said second intercom control signal is an intercom initiation signal.

A | 34. (New) A cordless handset as in claim 32, wherein said controller terminates said intercom communication request between said handset and said base station by sending an end intercom signal from said handset to said base station.

35. (New) A cordless handset as in claim 34, wherein said active call on hold is re-engaged with said handset when said end intercom signal is sent from said handset to said base station.

36. (New) A cordless telephone handset as in claim 32, wherein said controller causes said active call to be re-engaged and said intercom communication connection to end when an activate telephone line control of said handset is activated during said intercom communication connection or a third intercom control signal is sent by said handset to said base station during said intercom communication connection.

37. (New) A cordless telephone handset as in claim 36, wherein said third intercom control signal is an end intercom signal.

38. (New) A cordless telephone handset as in claim 32, wherein said controller causes said active call to be terminated with said handset and said intercom communication connection to end when an end intercom signal is received from said base station during said intercom communication connection.

39. (New) A cordless telephone base station comprising:

a controller;

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a speaker/microphone;

a transceiver; and

an intercom control portion, said intercom control portion being actuatable during an active call to send a signal to said controller, said controller in response to said signal sends a first intercom control signal through said transceiver to a cordless telephone handset;

wherein, said active call is placed on hold and an intercom communication is requested between said base station and said handset and when said first intercom control signal is sent from said base station during said active call.

40. (New) A cordless telephone handset as in claim 41, wherein said first control signal is an intercom initiation signal.

41. (New) A cordless handset as in claim 41, wherein an intercom communication connection is established when said base station receives a second intercom control signal from said handset.

A | 42. (New) A cordless handset as in claim 41, wherein said second intercom control signal is an intercom initiation signal.

43. (New) A cordless telephone base station as in claim 41, wherein said base station further comprises a telephone line control, wherein said controller causes said active call to be re-engaged and said intercom communication connection to end when said telephone line control is activated during said intercom communication connection or a third intercom control signal is sent by said base station to said handset during said active call.